about a regional language. On the one hand privatisation of Doordarshan is being done and on the other hand regional languages are being supressed. Earlier the sponsored Marathi Programme was telecast from 10 to 10.30 but now it has been changed and now it will be telecast from 1 to 2 on Saturday and Sunday. This has adversely affected the Marathi Producers. About 2000 persons have given application to Doordarshan with a fee of Rs.1000/- each but only 100 persons have been given chance and 7 or 8 out of them have stopped their work. I would like to know whether the regional languages will be given chance in the proposed third channel of Doordarshan or not?

[*English*]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Sir, once the channel comes, while making a policy we can definitely consider having it. I want that these regional aspirations should be met. By just telling in one language or two languages about the views or news or education, I cannot carry the message to the entire nation. Wherever the regional languages are there, we have to popularise them more. In that way we can effectively convey what we want to convey. That is why once the DD-3 and DD-4 come into existences, we can definitely consider giving more time for the regional Kendras and DD-1, DD-2, DD-3, DD-4, etc.

[*Translation*]

Prime is the mostly sought for commercials.

[*English*]

There are many people who want to produce. Hundreds and thousands of producers are there.

[*Translation*]

Prime time is quite less than its demand therefore, we are trying to introduce more channels. I also feel that pressure for prime time will decline after introducing DD-3 and DD-4.

[*English*]

SHRI C. NARASIMHAN: Sir, through you, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. The former Prime Minister assured of Channel-5 for Tamil Nadu. I request the hon. Minister, through you, to tell as to when it will be implemented.

MR. SPEAKER: That is only a suggestion. Mr. Minister, are you going to implement it?

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said in the reply that the third channel is being introduced for a special section of society so I would like to know special which is this section?

I would also like to know as to whether more channels would be introduced if other special sections will make such demands and what would be the percentage of external investment for extension of this channel.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by special Section, I meant the viewers of four metropolitan cities i.e. Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi and their adjoining areas. People of this area will be facilitated if transmitter is installed for these areas. So far the issue of external investment is concerned, I would like to say that it is still under consideration and no final decision has been taken on it.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while asking supplementaries to the last question Shri G. Venkat Swamy alleged that the movement for abolition of child labour became ineffective since he and your goodself left the charge of labour Ministry. While joining him I would also like to say that the concept of DD-3 has totally changed since yourself and I left the charge of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. DD-3 was proposed to be introduced as cultural channel to play a special role of countering propoganda launched against India. But now he is giving an ambiguous reply. It seems that decision regarding its privatisation has already been taken. Sir, through you I would like to ask whether the proposal objectives of DD-3 will restored by the Government.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: International channel is already there for this purpose. How we can telecast or express our views to foreign countries from metropolitan cities like Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi. I am not taking the concept of one Channel but how the time slot can be distributed among DD-1, DD-2, DD-3, DD-4 and DD-5. We have started international channel but it lacks viewers and annually a loss of several crores of rupees is being incurred on it. The department is conducting an inquiry whether it is fulfilling the objective for which it was opened or not. We have to pay crores of rupees for it. Zee-TV and Star TV are there in Asian Pacific region and if we get place in that transponder then our channel will also be available on Zee-TV.

We are trying to get place in Inset Transponders of Asia Pacific region for telecasting DD-International through it even if external investment is received for DD-3 and DD-4.

[*English*]

**Losses in BSP**

*184. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft of various products of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) detected during each of the last three years;

(b) the total loss suffered by the BSP during the above period;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the persons against whom the CBI enquiry has been conducted; and

(f) the action taken against guilty officers/employees?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on Table of the Lok Sabha.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) The number of cases of theft of various products of Bokaro Steel Plant detected during each of the last three years is as under:

| Year | No.of cases |
|---|---|
| 1994 | 08 |
| 1995 | 14 |
| 1996 | 04 |

Bokaro Steel Plant did not suffer any loss on account of these thefts as all the stolen materials were recovered.

(c) and (d) All the cases detected, were investigated by local police and sent to the Courts for trial. Departmental enquiry was conducted against one employee who was alleged to have been involved in a theft case.

(e) No enquiry was conducted by CBI for these theft cases.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker? Sir, due to paucity of time, I would like to raise a pointed question. It can be said about the reply given by the hon. Minister that.

[*English*]

It conceals more than it reveals.

[*Translation*]

Sir, for the last two and a half year CBI inquiry is going on in the cases of theft in Bokaro Steel Plant. During the CBI inquiry witnesses had given sensational statements and mentioned the names of high officials and political leaders under whose protection theft took place. The material of several truck loads was stolen there. I do not know that under whose pressure now this inquqiry is going on at snail pace, some allegations were also levelled against the former Chairman of SAIL. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will issue instructions to SAIL to cooperate with the CBI so that enquiry may be completed and the guilty persons at earliest be if a political leader or high officers should be punished, so that theft cases and the loss being incurred to Bokaro Steel Plant could be checked and people may have some fear of the law.

[*English*]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, in 1993, a case was detected by the management, with the help of the village people, about the theft in the Bokaro Steel Plant. The management filed an FIR with the local police. Then, the Bihar Government instructed an inquiry by CBI and accordingly, the CBI inquiry is going on. The CBI has submitted its report and the case is going on at Dhanbad. There is no compromise effort about the CBI inquiry and the question of SAIL not cooperating with the CBI does not arise. The SAIL is wholeheartedly cooperating with the CBI.

Secondly, the hon. Member pointed out regarding the theft and said that due to theft, there is a huge loss in the Bokaro Steel Plant. I would like to give detailed facts and figures for the last five years. In 1992, 29 cases of theft were reported and material worth Rs. 2,55,080 was stolen. I am happy to inform that hundred per cent recovery has been made. In 1993, there were 45 theft cases and the total cost of material stolen was Rs. 6,03,476 and hundred per cent has already been recovered by the Bokaro Steel Plant. In 1994, there were 36 cases and the cost of material stolen was Rs. 4,06,896, out of which material worth Rs. 1,71,896 has already been recovered.

In 1995, there were 49 cases and the total money involved was Rs.3,44,000/- out of which Rs.2,41,000/- has already been recovered.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one minutes is still there. My second supplementary is that budget for Bokaro was proposed to be raised upto Rs.1,100 crore for the purpose of modernisation but it has been raised to Rs.1,625 crore. Theft, corruption and some scam is suspected in this matter. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any CBI inquiry will be conducted in all the contracts granted for modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plants, so that the question of suspected theft, scam and corruption could be solved.

[*English*]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, there will be no compromise with corruption and I am really thankful to the hon. Member for giving me a very good suggestion. The process of modernisation is going on and it is due to be completed in July, 1997. If there is any specific allegation from the hon. Member, I would like to give an assurance that I would do accordingly.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

### Turnover of SAIL Units

*185. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state: